

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

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R 201000Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4524

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 1393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: PRC RELEASES "WAR CRIMINALS"

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: PEKING 486

1. ALTHOUGH THE GROC HAS NOT ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE PRC'S DECISION TO GRANT SPECIAL AMNESTY TO 293 "WAR CRIMINALS", ALL MARCH 20 MORNING NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE STORY, BUT OMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THE PRCS OFFER TO ALLOW THE MEN TO COME TO TAIWAN. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA POST, WHICH CARRIED THE ITEM IN A FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CHARACTERIZED THE AMNESTY AS A "UNITED FRONT PLOT... TO FOOL THE PEOPLE OF THE FREE AREAS AND STIR UP THEIR INTERNAL STRUGGLES."

2. THREE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY-CONTROLLED CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS (CHUNG YANG JIH PAO, CHUNG HUA JIH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAO AND HSIN SHENG PAO) CARRIED EDITORIALS ON THE

SPECIAL AMNESTY. AS IN THE NEWS REPORTS, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY OF THE RELEASED MEN COMING TO TAIWAN. THE TONE OF ALL THREE EDITORIALS WAS SUMMED UP BY THE CYJP EDITORIAL WHICH SAID, "ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE PAGED WITH AND USED AS UNITED FRONT TOOLS BY THE COMMUNISTS, WE WILL HAVE UNLIMITED CONCERN AND SYMPATHY. AT PRESENT THE MAINLAND IS NOTHING BUT A BIG JAIL; THEY HAVE GONE FROM A SMALL JAIL TO A BIG ONE; HOW CAN THEY HAVE ANY SELF-DETERMINATION OR FREEDOM?"

3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE NEGATIVE TONE OF THE EDITORIALS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE GROC WILL NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE REJECTING COMPATRIOTS IMPRISONED BY THE PRC -- ESPECIALLY IF THE QUESTION RECEIVES HEAVY COVERAGE IN PRC PROPAGANDA AND THE OVERSEAS CHINESE PRESS. THIS MAY BE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY POSSIBLE FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN MAINLANDERS OFFICIALS HERE AND THE RELEASED INDIVIDUALS. (WE NOTE, FOR INSTANCE, IN OUR INITIAL REVIEW OF THE NAME LIST THAT AMNESTIED LT GEN HUANG WEI, COMMANDER OF THE 12TH ARMY GROUP HAD HU LIEN -- FORMER DEPUTY CINC CHINESE CAMY - AND YIN CHUN -- THE CURRENT COMMANDER OF TAIWAN GARRISON GENERAL HEADQUARTERS -- UNDER HIM IN 1949.)

4. AT THE SAME TIME FOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY REASONS THE GROC WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PERMIT ANY OF THE RELEASED TO COME TO TAIWAN. PERMISSION MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY SOME AS THE BEGINNING OF CONTACTS WITH THE PRC AND BY OTHERS AS OPENING THE DOORS TO "COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVES".

5. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THAT IF INTERNATIONAL MEDIA GIVE SUFFICIENT PLAY TO THE PRC'S OFFER, THE GROC MAY FEEL CONSTRAINED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT OSTENSIBLY WELCOMING THEM TO TAIWAN WHILE PRIVATELY HOPING THEY WON'T COME.

6. SINCE EMBASSY INFORMATION ON GROC OFFICIALS DURING CIVIL WAR PERIOD IS EXTREMELY LIMITED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH HONG KONG, PEKING OR WASHINGTON CONFIDENTIAL

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CAN PROVIDE ON THOSE RELEASED, INCLUDING ANY OBVIOUS CONNECTIONS THEY HAVE WITH INDIVIDUALS NOW IN TAIWAN.
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